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General and complete disarmament

Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Japan, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo: revised draft resolution

Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/36 H of 6 December 1991, 47/52 G and J of 9 December 1992, 48/75 H and J of 16 December 1993, 49/75 G of 15 December 1994, 50/70 H of 12 December 1995, 51/45 L of 10 December 1996 and 52/38 C of 9 December 1997,

Considering that the illicit circulation of massive quantities of small arms throughout the world impedes development and is a source of increased insecurity,

Considering also that the illicit international transfer of small arms and their accumulation in many countries constitute a threat to their populations and to national and regional security and are a factor contributing to the destabilization of States,

Basing itself on the statement of the Secretary-General relating to the request of Mali for United Nations assistance for the collection of small arms,

Gravely concerned at the extent of the security and banditry linked to the illicit circulation of small arms in Mali and the other affected States of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion,

Taking note of the first conclusions of the United Nations advisory missions sent to the affected countries of the subregion by the Secretary-General to study the best way of curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and ensuring their collection,

Taking note also of the interest shown by the other States of the region in receiving a United Nations advisory mission,

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Noting the actions taken and those recommended at the meetings of the States of the subregion held at Banjul, Algiers, Bamako, Yamoussoukro and Niamey to establish close regional cooperation with a view to strengthening security,

Bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General of 13 April 1998 on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa,

Welcoming the initiative taken by the Economic Community of West African States concerning the declaration of a moratorium on the importing, exporting and manufacture of light weapons in West Africa,

Welcoming the decision of the thirty-fourth Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, held at Ouagadougou in June 1998, concerning the proliferation of small arms,

Taking note with interest of the work of the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms, particularly the recommendations relating to paragraph 79 (a) and (g),

Emphasizing the need to advance efforts towards wider cooperation and better coordination in the struggle against the accumulation, proliferation and widespread use of small arms through the Oslo general understanding and the Brussels call for action,

1. *Welcomes* the initiative taken by Mali concerning the question of the illicit circulation of small arms and their collection in the affected States of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion;

2. *Welcomes* the declaration on the moratorium adopted by the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States, adopted in Abuja on 30 October 1998, and *urges* the international community to give its support to the implementation of the moratorium;

3. *Also welcomes* the action taken by the Secretary-General in implementation of this initiative in the context of General Assembly resolution 40/151 H of 16 December 1985;

4. *Thanks* the Governments concerned in the subregion for the substantial support that they have given to the United Nations advisory missions, and welcomes the declared readiness of other States to receive the United Nations Advisory Mission;

5. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his efforts, in the context of the implementation of resolution 49/75 G and of the recommendations of the United Nations advisory missions, to curb the illicit circulation of small arms and to collect such arms in the affected States that so request, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in close cooperation with the Organization of African Unity;

6. *Notes* that, as part of its efforts to halt the flow of small arms into Mali and the Saharo-Sahelian subregion, the Government of Mali oversaw the destruction, at the "Flame of Peace" ceremony held at Timbuktu, Mali, on 27 March 1996, of thousands of small arms handed over by ex-combatants of the armed movements of northern Mali;

7. *Encourages* the setting up in the countries of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion of national commissions against the proliferation of small arms, and invites the international community to support as far as possible the smooth functioning of the national commissions where they have been set up;

8. *Takes note* of the conclusions of the ministerial consultation on the proposal for a moratorium on the importing, exporting and manufacture of light weapons in the region, held at Bamako on 26 March 1997, and encourages the States concerned to pursue their consultations on the matter;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to examine the issue and to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session an item entitled "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them".